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Glomar 320

LONG BEACH, Calif. AP - The Glomar Explorer, which reportedly

recovered part of a sunken Soviet submarine under a CIA contract last year, plans another excursion into the Pacific later this month, according to a spokesman for the operators of the vessel.

Corbett U. Allen, a vice president of Global Marine, Inc., said Sunday a giant barge, which is supposed to be a key element of the salvage operation, will accompany the deep-sea exploration ship when it sails from Long Beach.

President Ford, according to earlier published reports, had authorized another voyage of the Explorer this summer to complete the salvage attempt and to try to recover nuclear warheads believed aboard. The CIA also wanted to retrieve code books in an attempt to crack the Russian code, the reports said.

There has been no official comment on the matter since the cover of the Glomar Explorer, initially described as a sophisticated ocean mining vessel, was blown by publication of details of last summer's incomplete recovery.

The object of the expedition was a Russian submarine which exploded and sunk off Hawaii in 1968.

Part of the submarine was recovered, using a giant claw transported in the barge, the reports said. Several newspapers have described the claw as emerging from the submerged barge and then attaching to piping from the Explorer. The grappling claw can then comb the ocean floor at depths of several miles, the reports said.

Allen would not confirm the existence of the claw, but did say the barge would go with the Explorer.

He said the Explorer had been undergoing modifications at its Long Beach berth since December. Allen said the ocean cruise was planned to test those modifications, which he declined to discuss.

Allen, to whom the story in Monday editions of the Los Angeles Times was attributed, would not comment on the possibility of further salvage attempts.

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